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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. URUGUAY: SWEEPING CHANGES

TWO NEW CONSTITUTIONAL DECREES PROMULGATED SEPTEMBER 1 IN URUGUAY DEPRIVED A WIDE SPECTRUM OF CITIZENS OF THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CREATED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE NEW RULINGS:

--STRIPPED VIRTUALLY ALL LEFTIST CANDIDATES WHO HAD RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE 1966 AND 1971 ELECTIONS OF THE RIGHT TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR THE NEXT 15 YEARS, AND DEPRIVED MARXIST AND PRO-MARXIST CANDIDATES OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE;

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--EXPLICITLY ALTERED THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEPT OF

SEPARATION OF POWERS BY CREATING A NEW MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO "HARMONIZE" RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE PREVIOUSLY AUTONOMOUS JUDICIAL BRANCH; AND

--FURTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY

IN THE GOVERNMENT BY EFFECTIVELY ELEVATING MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO CABINET RANK.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MONTEVIDEO 3259, 3254, 9/3.

2. JAPAN: STRUGGLE FOR MIKI'S MANTLE CONTINUES

PRO- AND ANTI-MIKI LDP LEADERS HAVE MET FREQUENTLY DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS, BUT EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS NO COMPROMISE HAS YET BEEN REACHED. INSTEAD, THREATS AND DEMANDS HAVE GRADUALLY ESCALATED. MIKI IS NOW ACCUSED OF EXERCISING A "TYRANNY OF THE MINORITY" BY FAILING TO HEED THE EXPRESSED DESIRE OF THE MAJORITY OF HIS PARTY FOR HIS OUSTER. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS CHARGE MAY EMERGE AS THE LONG-SOUGHT "REASON" FOR OUSTING MIKI. MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH NO OBVIOUS SOLUTION IS IN SIGHT, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE A COMPROMISE WILL EVENTUALLY BE REACHED. IT WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME, HOWEVER, AND WILL THUS DELAY A POSSIBLE CABINET SHUFFLE AND DIET SESSION. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 13346, 9/3.

3. MEXICO FLOATS TRANQUILLY

ALTHOUGH MOST MEXICANS ARE OUTWARDLY CALM ABOUT THE PESO FLOAT, THERE IS WIDESPREAD DISCUSSION OF THE EVENT. EMBASSY MEXICO OPINES THAT:

--EVEN THOUGH INCREASED INFLATION IS INEVITABLE AND SOME AUSTERITY IS REQUIRED FOR A SUCCESSFUL DEVALUATION, THE GOM SEEMS TO BE AVOIDING A CALL FOR SACRIFICES, EQUITABLE OR OTHERWISE;

--THE SERIES OF ACCOMPANYING MEASURES OUTLINED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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ECHEVERRIA SEEMS MORE DESIGNED TO OFFSET THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE FLOAT THAN TO MAKE IT WORK;

--THE BURDEN FOR CRACKING DOWN ON UNREASONABLE WAGE OR PRICE DEMANDS WILL FALL ON THE NEW LOPEZ PORTILLA ADMINISTRATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MEXICO 11319, 9/3.

4. SISMIK: STORM CLOUDS IN GREECE

FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS PRESENTED AN ORAL DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR KUBISCH ON SEPTEMBER 2.

HIS MESSAGE, RELAYED ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS, WAS THAT:

--THE EXPANDED OPERATIONAL AREA AND LENGTH OF SISMIK'S ACTIVITIES, FOLLOWING ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND THE ATTEMPT TO SET UP BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, CAN ONLY BE VIEWED AS AN "INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION";

--THE TURKISH ACTION WILL NOT FACILITATE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOG AND "CANNOT CONTINUE TO GO UNCHECKED."

TZOUNIS SAID THE GREEKS WERE NOT REQUESTING US ACTION BUT WISHED TO KEEP THE FOUR WHO HAD HELPED AT THE UN (PRESUMABLY THE US, UK, FRANCE, AND ITALY) INFORMED. THE GOG ALSO INTENDS TO INFORM THE UNSC AND TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE TURKS. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 9340, 9/3. ROBINSON

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